



### Our Vision

To continue to be the leading authority to the sport, servicing the needs of bowling.

**A Future FOR  
THE Sport.**

**March 12, 2025**

Following USBC's release of an updated transgender policy in response to the Executive Order of February 5, 2025, some USBC members have asked how the change would impact leagues and tournaments conducted by our members.

There is a misconception that USBC's policy prohibits transgender participation. This is not true.

While USBC may no longer grant eligibility to transgender females to compete in women's competition category at the national level, this does not mean that these members may not participate in the sport. Many bowling tournaments are open and without gender designation.

Leagues are invitational by nature and by rule, can determine the make-up of the league when the league begins. Leagues can by majority vote, adopt a rule the league is open altogether or create a competition category open to women and transgender females and when they certify the league, mark it as a mixed league.

The rule change for transgender female inclusion in non-elite female competition doesn't go into effect until the end of the season on July 31, 2025, so there is no impact to current leagues.

USBC has created the following Frequently Asked Questions to guide leagues for the upcoming season.

1. **How can leagues be more inclusive for everyone under the updated transgender policy?** The easiest way is for leagues to be open without specific gender categories or awards. Mixed leagues without specific rules such as a minimum number of women on a team may be unaffected by the updated policy.
2. **What if a women's league or tournament only wants to allow women who were assigned that gender at birth?** If a league or tournament certifies a women's only league or tournament, it will by default have gender for the competition determined by gender assigned at birth.
3. **Can a women's league allow transgender females to bowl in its league?** Yes, leagues are invitational by nature and by rule, can determine the make-up of the league when the league begins. To do this, the league would, by majority vote, adopt a rule the league is open to women and transgender females and when they certify the league, mark it as a mixed league.
4. **What does a historically women's tournament need to do to allow transgender females in its competition?** A tournament manager would need a rule stating participation is open to females and transgender females.
5. **Doesn't this violate the new policy and Executive Order?** No, while USBC can no longer approve transgender women for competition across all USBC events, individual leagues and tournaments can write competition rules to allow transgender females and those whose biological sex is female to compete in the same division. Local leagues and tournaments are invitational by nature and are permitted to determine the qualifications and limits on their participants.
6. **Why doesn't USBC adopt this provision with its women's tournaments?** The Executive Order includes specific direction related to National Governing Bodies. Therefore, USBC may not grant eligibility to transgender females to compete in women's sporting events. USBC interprets the federal standard to be that USBC can't allow participation of transgender females in the women's competition USBC conducts. This includes USBC local and state associations and their required women's championship tournaments.